GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:389
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Development of Waste/Barren Land
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the details of waste land or barren land which are likely to be made cultivable or arable; State/UT-wise;
(b) whether schemes/programmes have been started by the Union Government to make such lands arable or cultivable, and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the amount of financial assistance provided to State Governments to make such land fertile/arable during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
(d) the total area of such land converted into cultivable/arable land during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
(e) whether the Union Government has instructed States to maintain data of waste land/barren land and if so, the details thereof State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)
(a) to (d):Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands.

The activities being undertaken inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc.

State-wise details of number of projects, sanctioned area of the projects and central assistance released during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure.

The projects are at various stages of implementation.

In addition, other Central Ministries / Departments like Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are implementing schemes and programmes like the Per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY which inter alia includes activities for water conservation, drought proofing, water harvesting, ground water recharge, etc. that complement and supplement interventions undertaken under the WDC-PMKSY.

(e)A Watershed is a geo hydrological unit comprising of various categories of land. Holistic development of each such geo-hydrological unit is undertaken under the programme. Database of different categories of land in all the watersheds across the country is not centrally maintained. States have not been asked to create a database of all the various categories of land that comprise the watersheds.
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